April 2012

To: Regional NRP Programs, Institutions, Educators and Administrators

From: Canadian NRP Steering Committee

Subject: Canadian NRP Steering Committee

Dear Sir/Madam:

The 6th edition of the Neonatal Resuscitation Textbook and its accompanying Instructor Manual are both available in Canada. They are based on the 2010 International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation [ILCOR] guidelines. The textbook, manual and guidelines reinforce many of the clinical changes that were introduced by the Canadian NRP Steering Committee in 2006, as well as introducing a number of educational changes.

We would like to bring the key 2011 clinical recommendations to your attention.

1. For most babies, resuscitation should be initiated with air, and oxygen introduced as required. Consequently blended oxygen and air should be available in areas where neonatal resuscitation is anticipated.

2. During resuscitation or assisted transition, supplemental oxygen therapy should be titrated using oximetry. Consequently, saturation monitors with appropriate neonatal settings and probes should be available in areas where neonatal resuscitation is anticipated.

3. Laryngeal mask airway placement is recommended when face-mask ventilation fails and endotracheal tube placement is unsuccessful. Laryngeal mask airways should be available in areas where neonatal resuscitation is anticipated.

4. Endotracheal tube placement should be confirmed with CO2 detectors. Disposable CO2 detectors or capnography should be available in areas where neonatal resuscitation is anticipated.

5. Preterm infants, now those <29 weeks gestation, should continue to be placed in plastic wrap/bag to prevent heat loss. Food-grade polyethylene bags-wrap should therefore be available for resuscitation in this population.

6. Preterm newborns with laboured respirations or persistent cyanosis may benefit from continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP]. Devices with the capacity to provide CPAP [for example, flow-inflating bags and T-piece resuscitators] should be available in areas where neonatal resuscitation is anticipated and practitioners familiarized with their use.

A complete list of equipment required for neonatal resuscitation may be found in the 6th Edition of the Neonatal Resuscitation textbook. Health care providers responsible for neonatal resuscitation in your institution or region will need to be familiar with new equipment and be trained in its use.

In addition, the Canadian NRP Steering Committee has recommended adaptation of a number of educational changes that are currently available in the United States. These recommendations reflect...
the significant changes in educational methodology, and require instructors to be trained face-to-face in order to acquire basic knowledge of these skills.

1. The paper exam will be replaced by an electronic, on-line exam. Prior to attending a Provider or Instructor course, participants should take and pass an on-line examination.

2. Unlike the USA, where purchase of the DVD is mandatory for Instructor Update, the Canadian recommendation is that the Instructor Manual should be the mandatory content, followed by a face-to-face course. NRP Instructors should own and read the NRP Instructor Manual prior to their Instructor course and use the content to prepare for Provider courses.

3. The introduction of simulation and debriefing to NRP training does not require high technical fidelity manikins or classrooms. Existing NRP manikins should meet our need, supplemented by generic video recording and playback devices. The focus should be enhancement of contextual fidelity through improved instructor training. We suggest that instructors first become familiar with low technical fidelity learning environments, using video recording to augment debriefing.

The Canadian Paediatric Society will continue to support enhancement of NRP Instructor capacity, as well as electronic Instructor registration and roster submission. Your support in implementing these changes is greatly appreciated. The 5th edition NRP materials will no longer be applicable as of October 2012.

Sincerely,

Khalid Aziz, Chair Canadian NRP Steering Committee.